CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 16-18 as follows:

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A cleaning apparatus for a lens mold half having a flange, comprising a cleaning assembly which includes a gas inlet, a gas outlet, and a surface having a cylindrical recess for accommodating the lens mold and a raised cylindrical portion surrounding the recess, wherein the recess has a cylindrical wall and a bottom surface, wherein the raised cylindrical portion having an inner diameter and an outer diameter thereby defining a ridge, wherein the ridge, in operation, is placed close to the flange so that a substantially enclosed area is formed between the cleaning assembly and ~~a chamber which forms a confined area around~~ said lens mold with the lens mold being situated within the substantially enclosed area, ~~an~~ wherein the outlet is in fluid communication with the recess for an outflow of gas from the substantially enclosed area, ~~said chamber, an~~ wherein the inlet is in fluid communication with the recess and arranged coaxially with the cylindrical recess for injecting an inflow of compressed gas onto the lens mold to dislodge any debris residing on the lens mold~~, wherein said inlet and said outlet are connected to said chamber, and the inflow and outflow of gas clean said lens mold~~.

17. (Currently amended) The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said lens mold is carried by a mold carrier, which holds a plurality ~~multitude~~ of lens molds.

18. (Currently amended) The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ridhe is equipped with sealing means for pneumatically sealing the lens mold and the cylindrical recess ~~said chamber is formed by a cleaning assembly, wherein said lens mold has a flange and said cleaning assembly has a ridge that conforms to the shape of said flange~~.

19. (original) The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said compressed gas is filtered air.

20. (original) The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said outflow is provided by a vacuum source.